

	SCORE POINTS: The essay represents a/an _____ writing performance.			
	1: Very limited	2: Basic	3: Satisfactory	4: Accomplished
ORGANIZATION/PROGRESSION				
Form and structure	The organizing structure of the essay is <b>inappropriate</b> to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The writer uses organizational strategies that are only marginally suited to the explanatory task, or they are inappropriate or not evident at all. The absence of a functional organizational structure causes the essay to lack clarity and direction.	The organizing structure of the essay is <b>evident but may not always be appropriate</b> to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is not always clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are only somewhat suited to the expository task.	The organizing structure of the essay is, <b>for the most part, appropriate</b> to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are adequately suited to the expository task.	The organizing structure of the essay is <b>clearly appropriate</b> to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is skillfully crafted because the writer uses organizational strategies that are particularly well suited to the expository task.
Thesis statement and coherence	Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the thesis statement is <b>missing, unclear, or illogical</b> . The writer may <b>fail to maintain focus</b> on the topic, may include extraneous information, or may shift abruptly from idea to idea, weakening the coherence of the essay.	Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the writer's thesis statement is <b>weak or somewhat unclear</b> . The lack of an effective thesis or the writer's inclusion of irrelevant information interferes with the focus and coherence of the essay.	The writer establishes a <b>clear</b> thesis statement. Most ideas are related to the thesis and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. The essay is coherent, though it may not always be unified due to <b>minor lapses in focus</b> .	The writer establishes a <b>clear</b> thesis statement. All ideas are strongly related to the thesis and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. By sustaining this focus, the writer is able to create an essay that is <b>unified and coherent</b> .
Progression of ideas and transitions	The writer's progression of ideas is <b>weak</b> . Repetition or wordiness sometimes causes serious disruptions in the essay. At other times the lack of transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections causes the writer to present ideas in a random or illogical way, making one or more parts of the essay unclear or difficult to follow.	The writer's progression of ideas is <b>not always logical and controlled</b> . Sometimes repetition or wordiness causes minor disruptions in the flow of the essay. At other times transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections are too perfunctory or weak to support the flow of the essay or show the relationships among ideas.	The writer's progression of ideas is <b>generally logical and controlled</b> . For the most part, transitions are meaningful, and sentence-to-sentence connections are sufficient to support the flow of the essay and show the relationships among ideas.	The writer's progression of ideas is <b>logical and well controlled</b> . Meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the flow of the essay by clearly showing the relationships among ideas, making the writer's train of thought easy to follow.
DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS				
Details and examples	The development of ideas is weak. The essay is ineffective because the writer uses details and examples that are <b>inappropriate, vague, or insufficient</b> .	The development of ideas is minimal. The essay is superficial because the writer uses details and examples that are <b>not always appropriate or are too briefly or partially presented</b> .	The development of ideas is sufficient because the writer uses details and examples that are <b>specific and appropriate, adding some substance</b> to the essay.	The development of ideas is effective because the writer uses details and examples that are <b>specific and well chosen, adding substance</b> to the essay.
Depth and understanding of task	The essay is insubstantial because the writer's response to the prompt is <b>vague or confused</b> . In some cases, the essay as a whole is only weakly linked to the prompt. In other cases, the writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a <b>lack of understanding</b> of the expository writing task.	The essay reflects <b>little or no thoughtfulness</b> . The writer's response to the prompt is sometimes formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates only a <b>limited</b> understanding of the expository writing task.	The essay reflects <b>some thoughtfulness</b> . The writer's response to the prompt is original rather than formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a <b>good</b> understanding of the expository writing task.	The essay is <b>thoughtful and engaging</b> . The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a <b>thorough</b> understanding of the expository writing task. The writer may choose to use his/her unique experiences or view of the world as a basis for writing or to connect ideas in interesting ways.

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USE OF LANGUAGE/CONVENTIONS				
Word choice	The writer’s word choice may be <b>vague or limited</b> . It reflects little or no awareness of the expository purpose and does not establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may impede the quality and clarity of the essay.	The writer’s word choice may be <b>general or imprecise</b> . It reflects a basic awareness of the expository purpose but does little to establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may not contribute to the quality and clarity of the essay.	The writer’s word choice is, <b>for the most part, clear and specific</b> . It reflects an awareness of the expository purpose and establishes a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice usually contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.	The writer’s word choice is <b>purposeful and precise</b> . It reflects a keen awareness of the expository purpose and maintains a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice strongly contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
Sentences	Sentences are <b>simplistic, awkward, or uncontrolled</b> , significantly limiting the effectiveness of the essay.	Sentences are <b>awkward or only somewhat controlled</b> , weakening the effectiveness of the essay.	Sentences are <b>varied and adequately controlled</b> , for the most part contributing to the effectiveness of the essay.	Sentences are <b>purposeful, varied, and well controlled</b> , enhancing the effectiveness of the essay.
Command of conventions; occurrence of errors	The writer has <b>little or no</b> command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. <b>Serious and persistent errors</b> create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and sometimes interfere with meaning.	The writer demonstrates a <b>partial</b> command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. <b>Some distracting errors may be evident</b> , at times creating minor disruptions in the fluency or meaning of the writing.	The writer demonstrates an <b>adequate</b> command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although <b>some errors</b> may be evident, they create few (if any) disruptions in the fluency of the writing, and they <b>do not affect the clarity of the essay</b> .	The writer demonstrates a <b>consistent</b> command of sentence boundaries and spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although <b>minor errors</b> may be evident, they <b>do not detract</b> from the fluency of the writing or the clarity of the essay. The overall strength of the conventions contributes to the effectiveness of the essay.